

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
August 10, 2009**

| DOA MEMBERS | DOA STAFF | EXCUSED | UNEXCUSED | GUESTS |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Suzan M. Adams | Margaret Nusbaum | Millard Haines | | |
| William P. Allen, PhD | Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec | | | |
| Earl S. Beck, PhD | Carolyn True | | | |
| Rae Ann Butler | | | | |
| Cristina Donahue- Taylor | | | | |
| Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair | | | | |
| David Gray, Comm | | | | |
| Lloyd Hoover | | | | |
| Alan Imhoff, Alderman | | | | |
| Ona M. John Kile | | | | |
| Louise Lynch | | | | |
| Burt Shawver | | | | |
| Virginia Skelley | | | | |
| Robert Wannemacher | | | | |
| Stephen Wilhide | | | | |

- I. **Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions – Hal** welcomed all attendees.

- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner David Gray reported there may be future large reductions by the state which will trickle down to the county budget. Furlough days which were avoided during the previous budget may be an unavoidable option for the next budget.

The County is taking advantage of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter to keep county residents informed.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Imhoff had no report today.

- V. **Update on Senior Forum, Hal Ehart Louise Lynch** – The Commission received some information from the SALT program about question suggestions for the forum. Information was gathered on what transportation options are currently available for seniors as this seems to be an ongoing issue. Commission members will begin to work with outside groups next week.

The Senior Voices of Frederick conducted a short survey five years ago and presented the results to the BoCC in September, 2004. A goal is to garner a retrospective report to see if these concerns still exist and what actions have been taken in the past five years to repair previous concerns. Emails have been sent to college professors to see if any graduate students would be interested in participating in a geriatric assessment.

A small group met to discuss the potential need for geriatric physician services in Frederick County. FMH has not identified this as a current or future need. Some from this group will visit a program which Greater Baltimore Medical Center has developed. This group will try to meet again in a month. FMH will require critical criteria to prove that this is a documented need. This group will continue to work with FMH to explore potential future options for geriatric medical services. The goal of this group is to open and continue discussions with the local medical community regarding geriatric medical needs in our area.

Senior Forum flyers are available at today's meeting for Commission members to post in appropriate areas of the community. Christina has been contacting local areas of advertising to promote the Forum.

September has been designated National Senior Center month. There will be a proclamation by the BoCC on September 1st.

Some members of the Commission are planning to attend the Town Hall Meeting with Senator Ben Cardin. If anyone is able to ask a

question, the Commission would like to know, "What effect will the Healthcare Reform Bill have on senior citizens?"

Update on United Seniors of Maryland, Virginia Skelley – Virginia distributed copies of the August, 2009 USM News. This newsletter includes the USM position on healthcare which this commission supports. Virginia is consistently asked the commission stance on current legislative topics. Emails will be sent to all commission members with a response deadline. The majority will decide the commission's recommendations and answer to USM.

- VI. Elder Expo Representation, Hal Ehart** – The Commission on Aging will have a table at the Elder Expo this year. It will be next to the Dept of Aging table. A sign-up sheet was presented so each member could sign up for an hour slot. The Expo is on October 8 from 9am – 2pm.

FY '10 Area Plan, Carolyn True – The Area Plan is the DoA grant application to the MD DoA which explains how the federal, state, and county funds that we receive each year will be spent. The area plan was approved by the BoCC on August 6, 2009. The report is very lengthy so copies were not distributed but can be made available if requested. The current FY'10 report is an update of the 2008 plan. Few changes were made to the plan. There will be some changes to the Ombudsman Program due to a recent review by an outside consultant. There may be changes in the grant allocations due to state budget cuts. The area plan also includes demographic make-up to include racial information which is based on requirements of the Older Americans Act. It includes actual number of people served and anticipated needs. Carolyn would be willing to sit with anyone who has questions about the plan to go over specifics.

The Senior Care Plan is a separate part of this document. A moratorium on the senior care program was put in place in January, 2009 which effectively creates a waiting list for seniors. The state is willing to review hardship cases presented by DSS. Five local cases were reviewed and two or three were approved for services.

- VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True**– The Frederick County DoA report was distributed which includes client and community services provided during July by DoA staff. It also includes department highlights and upcoming events. This report can be shared on a regular basis if Commission members would like. The senior center participants are still coming in for socialization, but more for exercise and activity instead of the meal program. However, home delivered meals and MOW needs are increasing. The Department is working on offering the seasonal flu vaccines at the senior centers this fall.

8/10/2009

A spreadsheet was distributed which compares fiscal budgets for 2010, 2009, and 2008. This shows what funds come from federal, state, and local revenues. The county contributes over half of the Department's funds. The Department appreciates the continued support of the BoCC. There are eighteen grants documented in this budget plan.

The Caregiver Registry is being developed by the Caregiver program. It will be separate from our Blue Book resource guide. There is a required background check which the provider is responsible for paying. Any issues between the client and provider need to be resolved independently of the Department. The DoA is the facilitator of this registry only.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

October 8th – Elder Expo, Lynfield Event Complex, 10142 Hansonville Road, Frederick, MD

October 13th – Elected Official Forum, 1:00 pm at Frederick Community College

October 29 – CoA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center